

new horizons

san fernando valley association for the retarded, inc.

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President

Spero Bowman
President Elect

Dennis Owens
Vice President

Gene Siciliano
Treasurer

Paul Elkins
Secretary

Sue Weitkamp
Past President

June 11, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE: (916) 322-6440

Chairman Ross Johnson
Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: June 12, 2008 Agenda Item #12
Prenotice Discussion of Amendments to Regulation 18946.4**

directors

Dick Bartus

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Roc Caldarone

Dean Daily

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Marguerite Gossett

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Janet Latto

Kevin Mentzel

Nina Perry

James Porter

Ernie Smith

Susan Stearns

Larry Stern

Lotay Yang

Cynthia Kawa

Executive Director

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I write on behalf of New Horizons regarding proposed amendments to Regulation 18946.4. We urge the Fair Political Practices Commission to reject the proposed elimination of the "no value rule" that applies 501(c)(3) fundraising events.

For over fifty four years, New Horizons has been empowering adults with developmental disabilities to fulfill their dreams. Through partnerships, community education and advocacy we create a brighter future in which our over 800 clients are accepted by, participate in, and add value to the community.

Our annual golf and gala events are important to us in terms of fundraising and friend raising. For the past five years, we have raised over \$150,000/year in net revenue to support our client programs, including job training and placement, life skill education classes and residential services. These events, along with our annual campaign and grant solicitation, raise important funds for our budget. Nearly 5% of our \$11 million budget is raised through these contributions.

The participation by public officials at these events helps us demonstrate a community of support. Public officials have served as emcees, auctioneers, honorees and guests....and their presence demonstrates to all of our guests the importance of the work we do in the community.

Elimination of the "no value" rule could unnecessarily create disclosure, gift limit, or conflict of interest issues for public officials who support our charity, create an impediment to the officials' attendance at our fundraising events, and, therefore, negatively impact our organization.

honorary directors

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Paula Boland (Ret.)

Peggy Carr

Buddy Collette

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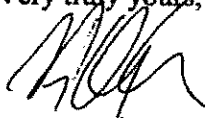
William Schallert

Michael Tilson Thomas

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For these reasons, we strongly urge you to reject the proposed changes to Regulation 18946.4 that would eliminate the current "no value" rule for 501(c)(3) charities.

Very truly yours,



Cynthia Kawa, M.S., M.F.C.C.
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Ray Remy
Commissioner A. Eugene Hugeunin, Jr.
Commissioner Robert Leidigh
Commissioner Timothy A. Hodson
Scott Hallabrin, General Counsel
William J. Lenkeit, Senior Commission Counsel